

Skilled Migration and Higher Education

**A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy**

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Date of submission:

Certificate of original authorship

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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Date:

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the inspirational guidance, patience and generosity of availability of my supervisor, Professor Nicky Solomon, over the period of study completed for this doctoral thesis. My deepest appreciation also goes to Associate Professor Jeff Browitt, who took over my supervision towards the end of the thesis and who gave his time, care and expertise at a crucial phase – thank you.

I dedicate this work to my parents Brian and Shirley and also gives very special thanks and recognition to my son, Alex, for his constant encouragement and to my daughter, Sarah, and family for the support they have given.

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the women who have helped me realise this work, especially Dr Nancy Belck and Sue Salthouse, who made the time to work on it and who were mentors and role models. To Sophia, Pam and Olivia, and my dear friends – you have been wonderful. I acknowledge Jane Aylen of Access Editing for her editing services, with thanks and appreciation.

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Glossary of acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
AEI	Australian Education International
AQTF	Australian Quality Training Framework
ASQA	Australian Skills Quality Authority
CRICOS	Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students
CSL	Critical Skills List
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DEST	Department of Education, Science and Technology
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
ELICOS	English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students
ESOS	Educational Services for Overseas Students
GSM Program	General Skilled Migration Program
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ICT	information communication technology

IT	information technology
PR visa	permanent residency visa
NTEU	National Tertiary Education Union
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PR visa	Permanent Residency visa
SOL	Skilled Occupation List
SVP	streamlined visa processing
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TEQSA	Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority
VET	vocational education and training
VRQA	Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority

Abstract

This research contributes to the field of international higher education policy studies by mapping a particular set of Australian Government policies which conflated higher education and skilled migration to Australia between 2001 and 2010. The policies were derived from a convergence of dominant global discourses and worldwide trends of globalisation, neoliberalism, skilled migration and international student mobility. The research explores how these discourses shaped and influenced the fields of government, higher education and vocational education and training, as well as the market for international students, by focusing on the sites of interaction and contest between the fields, which at times were both complementary and antagonistic. The thesis interrogates the unintended consequences of a nexus of policies that derived from an economic, neoliberal model for commercialising higher education and migration. The thesis is a contribution to international higher education policy studies by addressing how the establishment and disestablishment of policy towards international higher education students in Australia became symptomatic of the problems inherent in the wider global policy field of education.